

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/477,331

Examiner

Jinsong Hu

Applicant(s)

ARNOLD ET AL

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-18 and 20-53, now as 1-51.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

RD

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears bellow. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as proved by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Formal drawings are required to be submitted because the handwritings in the original drawings are not clear.
3. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Sean L. Ingram (Reg. No. 48,283) on May 23, 2005.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 35, 38-47 and 49 have been amended. See the attachment for details.

Reasons for allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Applicant's claimed invention distinguished over the prior art for the following reasons. The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious the method for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality individual messaging accounts

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comprising of the steps of accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts and retrieving a report of messages that are pending from the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considering necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3965. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 am – 5:00 pm) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee, can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax number for Group 2100 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of the application should

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be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 305-3900.

Jinsong Hu

May 26, 2005



VIET D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the method comprising:

providing an account database associated with a server, wherein the account database stores at least one of passwords or ~~and~~ user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

receiving an access request to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on information associated with a user;

authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user;

accessing the account database to retrieve at least one of the passwords or ~~and~~ the user IDs corresponding to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending from the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating a consolidated message list, including at least the messages pending in the report ~~selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;~~

transmitting the consolidated message list as an output; and

presenting the consolidated message list on a user interface.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

accepting a message process request to perform predetermined functions on the messages presented in the consolidated message list;

associating the message process request to the corresponding message presented in the consolidated message list; and

transmitting the message process request to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3 wherein the server comprises a networked proxy server.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3 wherein selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts have reassignable network addresses.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein the POP3 standard is utilized in at least one step.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 3 wherein the consolidated message list comprises a list of e-mail messages and the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts comprise different email accounts.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7 further comprising performing predetermined service functions at the message access port.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the system comprising:

an account database associated with a server, wherein the account database stores at least one of passwords or ~~and~~ user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

a message port on the server adapted to accept an access request, wherein the access request includes authorization information and the access request enables access to the server, wherein the server determines selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts based on information associated with a user;

the server further being adapted to:

authorize access to the server,

reference the account database,

match the at least one of the passwords or ~~and~~ the user IDs with the corresponding selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts determined in the access request, and

access the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts; and

a processor unit in communication with the message port, wherein the processor unit accesses the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts and retrieves a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, and wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9 wherein the messages comprise electronic mail and selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts comprise different electronic mail accounts.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9 wherein the server comprises a networked proxy server.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 9 wherein the processor unit retrieves information from selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts and creates a consolidated message list that includes at least the messages included in the report ~~pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.~~

14. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 13 wherein the processor unit accepts message process requests that perform predetermined functions on the messages presented in the pending message list.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 14 wherein the message process requests comprise at least one of selecting messages, deleting messages or and reading messages.

16. **(Original)** The system of claim 9 wherein the POP3 standard is utilized in at least one communication.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, further comprising an administrative module in communication with the message access port, wherein the administrative module is adapted to perform predetermined service functions.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the system comprising:

account database means for storing at least one of passwords or and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts, the account database means associated with a server;

message port means for receiving an access request as an input to enable access to selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on information associated with a user;

server authorization means for authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user;

referencing means for referencing the account database, wherein the account database stores corresponding ones of the at least one of the passwords or and the user IDs corresponding to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts determined in the access request;

matching means for matching the at least one of the passwords or and the user IDs with the corresponding selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts determined in the access request;

authorizing means for authorizing access to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with the matched passwords and/or user IDs; and

processing means for communicating with the message port means, wherein the processing means accesses the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts and retrieves a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, and wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that

are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the messages comprise electronic email and selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts comprise different electronic mail accounts.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the server comprises a networked proxy server.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the processing means retrieves information from selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts and creates a consolidated message list that includes at least the messages included in the report ~~pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the processing means accepts message process requests that perform predetermined functions on the messages presented in the pending message list.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the message process requests comprise at least one of selecting messages, deleting messages or and reading messages.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A storage medium for storing computer readable code, the computer readable code being executable to manage a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the medium comprising:

computer readable code for providing an account database associated with a server, wherein the account database stores at least one of passwords or and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

computer readable code for receiving an input of an access request to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on information associated with a user;

computer readable code for authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user;

computer readable code for accessing the account database to retrieve the at least one of the passwords or and the user IDs corresponding to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

computer readable code for accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs; and

computer readable code for retrieving a report of messages that are pending from the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable code for creating a consolidated message list, including at least the messages included in the report ~~pending in the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;~~ and

computer readable code for transmitting the consolidated message list as an output.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 26 further comprising:
computer readable code for accepting a message process request;
computer readable code for associating the message process request to the corresponding message presented in the consolidated message list; and
computer readable code for transmitting the message process request to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A system for enabling a user to manage a plurality of messages stored in two or more individual messaging accounts associated with different service providers, the system comprising:

two or more individual messaging accounts associated with different service providers;

an interface module for determining the user, authorizing the user and matching the user to the corresponding two or more individual messaging accounts;

a storage module, wherein the storage module stores at least one of a user IDs or ~~and~~ passwords corresponding to the two or more individual messaging accounts for the associated user;

an authorization module for accessing each of the two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user, wherein the authorization module references the storage module and matches the at least one of the user IDs or ~~and~~ passwords with corresponding ones of the two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user, and wherein the authorization module provides each of the two or more individual messaging accounts with the matching password and/or user IDs; and

a report retrieving module that retrieves a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the matching password and/or user ID is different for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts are accessed individually by providing a corresponding password and/or user ID to each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 9, wherein the server is further adapted to individually access each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with a corresponding password and/or user ID.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein the matching password and/or user ID is different for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 18, wherein the authorizing means individually accesses each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected ones of the

plurality of individual messaging accounts with a corresponding password and/or user ID.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 18, wherein the matching password and/or user ID is different for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 25, wherein the authorizing means individually accesses each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with a corresponding password and/or user ID.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 25, wherein the matching password and/or user ID is different for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 28, wherein the matching password and/or user ID is different for each of the two or more individual messaging accounts.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts using a proxy server, the method comprising:

receiving an authorization request, the authorization request including user identification information;

performing a proxy server authorization to enable access to the proxy server based on the user identification information;

determining two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user identification information;

retrieving at least one of account passwords or ~~and~~ account user IDs associated with the two or more individual messaging accounts;

performing an individual messaging account authorization for the two or more individual messaging accounts by providing the two or more individual messaging accounts with corresponding ones of the at least one of the account passwords or ~~and~~ the account user IDs; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts using a proxy server, the method comprising:

providing a account database for storing at least one of passwords or ~~and~~ user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

accepting a user access request for at least a first individual messaging account and a second individual messaging account, wherein the user access request includes user identification information;

performing a first authorization based on the user identification information;

accessing the account database to obtain at least one of a password or ~~and~~ a user ID for at least the first individual messaging account and the second individual messaging account;

performing an individual messaging account authorization that includes:

providing at least one of a first user ID or and a first password to the first individual messaging account and providing at least one of a second user ID or and a second password to the second individual messaging account; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

40. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the method comprising:

authorizing access to a server based on user identification information;

accepting a user access request to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on the user identification information;

individually gaining authorization to access the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the server provides the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with account specific authorization information; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 40 further comprising:

presenting a consolidated message list on a user interface, the consolidated message list including messages contained in the report selected

~~ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts~~, wherein the user interface comprises a first portion that lists the messages contained in the report ~~selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts~~ and a second portion that lists one or more account indicators that indicate which of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts contains that corresponding messages from the first portion of the user interface.

42. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of email messaging accounts using a proxy server, the method comprising:

providing an account database for storing at least one of account-specific passwords or ~~and~~ account-specific user IDs corresponding to the plurality of email messaging accounts;

receiving a user access request to access selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts are determined based on user identification information;

authorizing access to the proxy server based on the user identification information;

accessing an account database to obtain corresponding ones of the at least one of the account-specific passwords or ~~and~~ the account-specific user IDs for the selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts;

matching the corresponding ones of the at least one of the account-specific passwords or ~~and~~ the account-specific user IDs with the corresponding selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts;

individually gaining authorization to the selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts by providing the corresponding ones of the at least one of the account-specific passwords or ~~and~~ the account-specific user IDs to the selected ones of the plurality of email messaging accounts; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

43. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts using a proxy server, the system comprising:

authorization request receiving means for receiving an authorization request at a message access port on the proxy server, the authorization request including user identification information;

proxy server authorization means for performing authorization to enable access to the proxy server based on the user identification information;

account determining means for determining two or more individual messaging accounts associated with the user identification information;

retrieving means for retrieving at least one of account passwords or ~~and~~ an account user IDs for the two or more individual messaging accounts;

individual messaging account authorization means for performing authorization for the two or more individual messaging accounts by providing the two or more individual messaging accounts with corresponding ones of the at least one of the account passwords or ~~and~~ the account user IDs; and

report retrieving means for retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

44. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts using a proxy server, the system comprising:

an account database means for storing at least one of passwords or and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

a message access means that accepts a user access request for at least a first individual messaging account and a second individual messaging account, wherein the message access means receives the user access request at a message access port on the proxy server, and wherein the user access request includes user identification information;

a proxy server authorization means that performs an authorization based on the user identification information;

an accessing means that accesses the account database to obtain at least one of a password or and a user ID for at least the first individual messaging account and the second individual messaging account;

an individual messaging account authorization means for performing authorization, the individual messaging account authorization means including:

providing means for providing at least one of a first user ID or and a first password to the first individual messaging account and providing at least one of a second user ID or and a second password to the second individual messaging account, and

report retrieving means for retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

45. **(Currently Amended)** A system for managing a plurality of messages stored in a plurality of individual messaging accounts, the system comprising:

an server authorization module that authorizes access to a server based on user identification information;

a message access port that accepts, at the server, a user access request to access selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the plurality of individual messaging accounts are determined based on the user identification information;

an individual account accessing module that individually gains authorization to access the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the server provides the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with account specific authorization information; and

a report retrieving module that retrieves a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45 further comprising:

a consolidated message module that presents a consolidated message list on a user interface, the consolidated message list including messages contained in the report ~~selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts,~~ wherein the user interface comprises:

a first portion that lists the messages contained in the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, and

a second portion that lists one or more account indicators that indicate which of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts contains the corresponding messages from the first portion of the user interface.

47. **(Currently Amended)** A method of accessing a plurality of individual messaging accounts individually using a single access request to a proxy server, the method comprising:

receiving an access request for accessing selected ones of a plurality of individual messaging accounts and authorizing access to the proxy server;

automatically retrieving pre-stored account authorization information for the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts;

individually authorizing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts with the corresponding ~~pie~~pre-stored authorization information; and

retrieving a report of messages that are pending on the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the messages that are pending include one or more messages that are new and one or more messages that have been reported in a previous report.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs are predefined for the selected ones of the individual messaging accounts.

49. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the user interface comprises, a first portion that lists messages pending in the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, and a second portion that lists one or more account indicators that indicate which of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts contains the corresponding messages from the first portion.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 9, wherein the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs are predefined for the selected ones of the individual messaging accounts.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 18, wherein the matched passwords and/or user IDs are predefined for the selected ones of the individual messaging accounts.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The storage medium of claim 25, wherein the corresponding passwords and/or user IDs are predefined for the selected ones of the individual messaging accounts.

53. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 28, wherein the matching passwords and/or user IDs are predefined for the selected ones of the individual messaging accounts.